

Whitby Urban District



REPORT

for the

YEAR 1947

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. A. READ, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

H. EATOUGH, M.S.I.A.



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
WHITBY URBAN DISTRICT
for the year 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for 1947. During the year Mr. Graham retired from the post of Sanitary Inspector after 32 years of conscientious service to the town, and Mr. H. Eatough was appointed to succeed him as from the 3rd September, 1947. The appointment of a junior clerk has enabled me to reorganise the office administration, thus allowing me to devote more time to the clinical and outdoor duties of my post.

Thirty-one houses were built by the Council and eight by private enterprise during the year, but owing to the extremely poor state of many of the houses on the East Side of the river very many more will be required before satisfactory accommodation can be found for all. The steep, congested, narrow yards of Whitby are almost unique, and present a difficult housing problem.

The Health Department took part in the Savings Exhibition, held in the Church House, Whitby, in October, and presented various displays. Suitable publicity regarding simple health measures is, I think, invaluable, although immediate results may not always be apparent.

Clean methods of food handling are essential in a town which caters for visitors, and to stimulate interest in this subject it is proposed to hold lectures on Food Hygiene next year.

Your obedient servant,

R. A. READ.

Grape Lane,
Whitby,
Yorks.

August, 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1947.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office held.	Whole or part time.	Other Public Offices held.
R. A. READ	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Medical Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital.	Whole.	Medical Officer of Health, Whitby R.D.C. Scalby U.D.C. Scarborough R.D.C. Asst. School Medical Officer, North Riding C.C.
O E. GRAHAM	M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.	Sanitary Inspector. Director of Public Cleansing.	Whole.	(Retired, August, 1947).
H. EATOUGH	M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector. Director of Public Cleansing.	Whole.	(Com. 3rd Sept., 1947). 4
Miss H. FISHER	S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert.H.V.	Health Visitor.	Whole.	
Miss M. E. LINSLEY	S.C.M., S.R.N.	Domiciliary Midwife.	Whole.	
Mrs. B. H. MIDDLETON	S.C.M.	Domiciliary Midwife.	Whole.	
Miss P. G. GRIMWOOD	S.R.N., General & Fever C.M.B.	Matron, Isolation Hospital.	Whole.	

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Rateable Value **£88,921**

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£347.

Population—Registrar-General's Estimate,
mid-1947 **10,520**

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	116	113	229
(Legitimate)	102	110	212
(Illegitimate)	14	3	17
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			21.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population, England and Wales			20.5

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Still Births	1	3	4
(Legitimate)	0	3	3
(Illegitimate)	1	0	1
Still Birth Rate			0.38
Still Birth Rate, England and Wales			0.50

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	81	81	162
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			15.4
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, England and Wales			12.0

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	2	8	10
(Legitimate)	2	7	9
(Illegitimate)	0	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under One Year per 1,000 live births			43.7
Death Rate of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Live births, England and Wales			41.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1947.

According to Registrar-General's Classification:—

	Males.	Females.	T'tl.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	1	6
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1
Cancer of Mouth and Oesophagus	1	0	1
Cancer of Uterus	0	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5
Cancer of Breast	0	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	9	1	10
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	10	16	26
Heart Disease	26	33	59
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Bronchitis	4	7	11
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1	1
Nephritis	0	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	1	1
Premature Birth	0	3	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, and Infantile Diseases	3	3	6
Suicide	2	0	2
Other Violent Causes	3	0	3
All Other Causes	10	3	13
Totals	81	81	162

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Midwifery Services.

The two municipal midwives during the year attended:

As midwife	59
As maternity nurse	49

Transfers to:—

County Maternity Ward	3
Westow (N.R.C.C.)	3
Scarborough Institution	2
Whitby Cottage Hospital	2
District Nurse	1
Ante-Natal Clinic sessions	45
Attendances	448
Ante-natal visits	565

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia were transferred to the Whitby Joint Isolation Hospital. Those not requiring removal are attended in their own homes by the Whitby District Nursing Association, under an agreement in force between the Council and the Nursing Association.

Dental Treatment.

When required arrangements have been made with the County Medical Officer of Health for the School Dentist to deal with these cases.

When the School Dentist receives his full equipment, it is hoped that treatment for more expectant mothers may be arranged.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Sessions held	43
Ist Attendance of Infants	67
Ist Attendance of Toddlers	61
Total Attendances of Infants	863
Total Attendances of Toddlers	353
Average Attendance per Session	29

Artificial Sunlight Clinic:—

Sessions held	49
Total Attendances	378
First Visits to Children under 1 year	240
Total Visits to Children under 1 year	1156
Total Visits to Children between 1 and 5 years	1026

The Health Visitor visits all babies after they are fourteen days old and at regular intervals until they are five. In addition, she is the Child Life Protection Officer for the district.

Domestic Help Service.

In order to provide help in the home for maternity cases and cases of serious illness, a Domestic Help Service was inaugurated towards the end of the year, making use of part-time Domestic Helps.

Laboratory Facilities.

Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

Ambulance Facilities.

St. John's Ambulance, Whitby.

Fever Ambulance, Whitby Joint Isolation Hospital.

Hospitals.

The War Memorial Cottage Hospital—Voluntary.

The Joint Isolation Hospital—Whitby Urban and Rural District Councils.

Whitby County Institution—North Riding County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Whitby Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following cases were admitted during 1947:—

	Urban.	Rural.	T'tl.
Scarlet Fever	5	9	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	2
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Septicaemia	1	1	2
Erysipelas	1	2	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	2	2
Acute Tonsillitis	3	1	4
Observation	9	0	9
	—	—	—
	21	16	37
	—	—	—

Three patients died, one female of 73 years with Scarlet Fever, one female—breast abscess and heart disease, one female—acute laryngitis with obstruction.

Average stay of each patient in days	22.5
Average stay of each Urban patient in days	22.5
Average stay of each Rural patient in days	22.75
Daily average occupied beds	2.48

The daily average of occupied beds was in:—

1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
2.48	2.1	5.19	4.43	7.6

Notification of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Infectious diseases were notified as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	8
Pneumonia	4
Measles	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	12.
Erysipelas	4

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

Immunisation was continued throughout the year:—

	Under 5 years of age.	Over 5 years but under 15.	Total.
Number of children immunised during 1946.	77	13	90
Number of children immunised during 1947	84	11	95
Total number of chil- dren immunised up to 31/12/47	415	1,226	1,641

Children are regularly inoculated week by week by local doctors. Although during the year no cases of diphtheria occurred, it is still vitally important for all children to be protected against this disease.

Tuberculosis, 1947.

During the year 3 males and 2 females were notified as cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 male and 3 females as cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 7 deaths, 6 from Pulmonary and 1 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

PORT MEDICAL WORK.

Five coastal vessels, with a total tonnage of 567 tons, visited the port during the year. These did not require inspection.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1947.

Public Health Department,
The Council Offices,
St. Hilda's Terrace,
Whitby.

January, 1948.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration an Annual Report of the Department for the year 1947.

On the retirement of Mr. O. E. Graham I took up office on September 3rd, 1947, and this Report also covers work during his period of office.

I must express thanks most gratefully to the Members of the Council, Dr. R. A. Read, and members of my own and other Council Departmental staff for the help and assistance so freely given to me in my new post.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. EATOUGH, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Personal Interviews	69
Refuse Disposal Plant	25
Defective and choked drains and water closets	25
Spital Bridge Depot	24
Insect Infestations	7
General Nuisances	167
Meat Allocation Depot	3
Pail Closet Conversions	20
Accumulation of Rubbish	1
Factories	6
Unsound Food	19
Food Manufacturing Premises	27
Smoke Nuisances	2
Ice Cream Premises	19
Refuse Tip	7
Farms and Dairies	13
Drain Testing	10
Public Conveniences	18
Housing Applications	21
Rodent Infestations	4
Overcrowding	3
Camping Sites	1
Water Sampling	4
Disinfections	1
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	105
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Total of Visits and Re-Visits	601
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Complaints received	108
Nuisances found	89
Nuisances remedied	57
Nuisances outstanding, 31/12/47	32
Informal Nuisance notices served (verbal and by letter)	89
Statutory Nuisance notices served	8
Informal notices to provide dust bins	32
Statutory notices to provide dust bins	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied and distributed by a private company and has been satisfactory in quantity during the year. A report of unsatisfactory samples was received towards the end of the year and check samples proved the report correct. The matter was immediately taken up with the supplying company, and remedial works are in hand.

Quite a number of the older houses in the town have not separate supplies of water, and take their supplies from taps situate in the courtyards; this inflicts some hardship during frosty weather.

No extension of services was made during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collections of House and Trade Refuse are made throughout the whole area, as well as a separate collection of waste paper from business premises and a collection of kitchen waste from street bins.

The work is carried out by three S. & D. refuse collectors with eight men. Supplementary staff is engaged in the holiday season to cope with extra refuse. Bi-weekly collections are made during holiday periods at most hotels and boarding-houses, as well as many shop and business premises. Because of collection difficulties a bi-weekly collection is also made in the Church Street area, where the great number of steps and long carries make this necessary, some bins having to be carried down approximately one hundred steps to the nearest point of approach by the vehicle. On the remainder a seven-day collection is maintained.

Disposal is carried out at the excellent Disposal Plant situate at Spital Bridge, where all refuse is sorted and screened, the tailings being destroyed by incineration. Screenings are in great demand for agricultural purposes, whilst cinders find a ready market amongst market gardeners and small horticulturists for use in their heating apparatus. The residual clinker is used for making farm roads and all other salvaged materials are put back into circulation. A certain amount of Household Refuse collected by the Whitby Rural District in villages adjacent to the town is treated at the Plant on a fixed charge basis per load.

An emergency refuse tip is available at Stainsacre, where controlled tipping is exercised when necessary.

Statistics.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated cost of Collection, 1947/48 Financial Year	3,263	0	0
Estimated cost of Disposal, 1947/48 Financial Year	2,606	0	0
Income from Salvage and Reclaimed Materials, calendar year ended 31/12/47	1,269	0	0
Bonus Payments received:—			
Waste Paper	20	12	9
Kitchen Waste	38	11	1
Income from treatment of Refuse from Rural District	95	5	4

Loads of Refuse Collected and Disposed	2,444
Loads of Trade Refuse brought in by Traders	282

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

With very little exception, the whole of the district is served by an adequate sewerage system, and disposal to sea is very effective. A small plant disposes of sewage in the Brigswath Area on the Boundary.

A small number of yards are still without drainage, and there are approximately 100 pail closets in the Area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The town is provided with ample service in this direction for its ordinary needs. Occasionally at peak holiday periods the accommodation is strained to its limits, and as the town is becoming increasingly popular as a holiday resort it will be necessary in the near future to supplement this service.

FACTORIES.

These premises were inspected regularly during the year, and four complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. All the reported defects were remedied or in hand at the close of the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No timed observations have been made during the year, but complaints of excessive smoke emission have been received. Remedial work is in hand at all premises subject to complaint.

SHOPS.

No routine inspections of shops have been carried out under the provisions of Section 10 of the 1934 Act.

CAMPING SITES.

This type of holiday appears to be on the increase, and it is doubtful if the Public Health Act 1936 is sufficient for their effective control.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no registered Offensive Trades in the Area.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.

A small swimming pool is available in the West Cliff Area, and chlorination of the water takes place. No samples of the bath water were taken during the year.

INFESTATION.

The number of premises found to be infested with vermin was small, and appropriate action was taken where it was deemed necessary.

RODENT CONTROL.

A trained Rodent Officer is employed by the Council, and complaints are immediately subjected to remedial action. A maintenance treatment of sewers was undertaken in the early part of the year.

HOUSING.

The Area is suffering from the nation-wide shortage of houses and, in addition, there is a large proportion of houses, particularly in the older parts of the town, which are in very bad condition and are ripe for demolition. The shortages of builders' materials have made it difficult for essential repairs to be carried out over a number of years, and the time is not far distant when it will be imperative for the Council to put into effect a large-scale Clearance Programme. Overcrowding exists to quite an appreciable extent.

An estate of 96 new houses is in progress, but these will be far from sufficient to cover immediate requirements of new houses due to cessation of building during war years.

As a result of a special report on Housing Conditions, presented in November, an assistant Sanitary Inspector is to be appointed mainly for Housing Work.

In order to accurately assess the needs for new houses in the town, it is eminently desirable that a complete survey should be made whereby the numbers of persons requiring houses could be found, which, together with the numbers of houses requiring demolition, would give some idea of houses needed.

NEW HOUSES.

Some 31 houses have been completed by the Council and 8 by private enterprise during 1947.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK.

There are 52 registered cowsheds and dairies which have been subject to regular inspection, and a reasonable standard of cleanliness is observed. Some alterations are necessary at several places to bring them in line with present-day standards.

No samples of milk retailed in the town have been taken, but I am given to understand regular tests are made by the National Milk Testing Scheme in the interests of clean milk production.

No samples of milk have been taken for evidence of tuberculosis.

There are 8 retail purveyors and 25 wholesale producers registered within the Area.

There is a large milk receiving depot in the town which handles approximately 5,000 gallons per day. An up-to-date H.T.S.T. apparatus is installed, and the milk is supplied to the surrounding areas after efficient pasteurisation.

MEAT.

All slaughterhouses in the Area are kept closed by Ministry of Food Order, and the fresh meat supply is from Scarborough. The quality of the meat at times leaves much to be desired. The handling of meat both to and from the local Allocation Depot could be much improved, and the provision of properly constructed vans for this purpose would assist a great deal. It has been found necessary on occasion to draw attention to the clothing of persons handling meat.

ICE CREAM.

No sampling of this commodity has been undertaken, but arrangements are in hand for this work to proceed next year. The six manufacturers registered have all placed orders to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations, but with the slow rate of delivery of equipment it is doubtful if full compliance will be made for some time.

OTHER FOODS.

Regular inspections of food retail shops are carried out, together with cafe and hotel kitchens.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Condemned Food.

CANNED & BOTTLED.	DRY GOODS, CEREALS, Etc.
Meat, 147 cans.	562 lbs. Miscellaneous.
Fruit, 22 cans.	15 lbs. Flour.
Vegetables, 202 cans.	14 stones Butter
Milk, 119 cans.	Beans.
Soup, 11 cans.	FISH.
Fish, 26 cans.	11 stones (wet).
Fowl, 1 can.	30 boxes (dry).
Pickles, 6 jars.	MEAT.
Jam, 22 jars.	532 lbs. Home-killed and Imported.
	8 lbs. Bacon.

